



Saguaro National Park News Release

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SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK ENCOURAGES SAFE VIEWING OF SOLAR ECLIPSE AT TUCSON MOUNTAIN DISTRICT ON MAY 20

Tucson, AZ – Saguaro National Park will be among 125 national parks to offer the best eclipse-viewing opportunities on May 20 when the first solar eclipse viewable in the U.S. in the last 18 years darkens the sky before sunset.

The parks, most of them west of the Mississippi River, including Saguaro National Park, will offer a partial eclipse view. The eclipse will be visible low on the western horizon, just before sunset, with maximum coverage at 6:38 p.m. Because the sun will only be partially covered during the eclipse, it is important that anyone interested in viewing it is prepared with the proper safety glasses.

“Sunglasses are not good enough protection to look directly at the sun. There are inexpensive solar glasses that better protect eyes that are available online, from bookstores and other science related gift shops around town”, says Andy Fisher, Branch Chief of Interpretation. Western National Parks Association is selling inexpensive solar glasses at both visitor centers in Saguaro National Park.

The Tucson Mountain District, located at 2700 N. Kinney Road just west of the Tucson Mountains, has an unobstructed view of the western sky, which makes it a prime location for seeing the eclipse in Tucson. “We are encouraging anyone interested to come out and watch the natural spectacle with us,” said Fisher.

For visitors planning on viewing the eclipse at the Tucson Mountain District, please bring a chair and solar glasses. The bookstore in the visitor center will stay open until 7:00pm to sell the glasses. The viewing time for the Tucson region will be start at 5:29 p.m.

Of the 125 national parks, there are 33 national parks positioned for a great view of the full annular eclipse. For more information, please visit www.nature.nps.gov/features/eclipse for the latest eclipse information that includes safety tips, maps of the eclipse path and a complete list of national parks where the eclipse will be visible.

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